



BNMP GOES TO BROADWAY !!!

On Friday, October 16th, BNMP will present a short play, *Naughty Neighbors*, at Crossroads Shopping Center main stage at noon and again at 1:30. (okay, so it's not actually Broadway...) But we are hitting the boards to show how mediation can help neighbors in conflict.

In this case, the neighbors are the Hamiltons and the Chiapanellis, long time Bellevue neighbors whose quite different lifestyles get them in some hot water. Are they naughty? We'll let you be the judge of that. But remember: let he who is without sin cast the first stone. And anyway, the important thing is that all's well that ends well... thanks to some fine mediating in Scene 4.

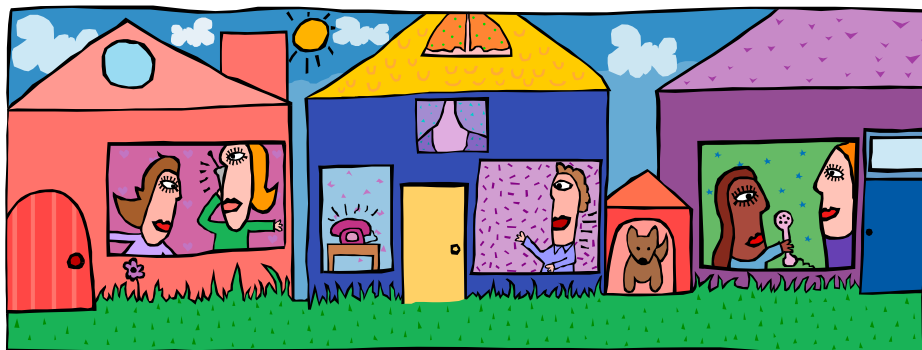
Naughty Neighbors is a new direction for BNMP's outreach efforts. And let's just say we're pretty excited, and nervous, and energized by it all. The play is also our way to cele-



brate national Conflict Resolution Day on October 15th, a day established to honor mediators and to promote the practice of dispute resolution. Please come out and see your colleagues under the lights. And if you're interested in helping out, particularly if you have drama experience, please let

us know.

The play is written by Andrew, directed by Gwen, and produced by Cheryl. The players are our finest thespians, drawn from our pool of volunteers and from COB staff. Volunteers Lynn Terpstra and Catherine Zimmerman have played key roles in organizing the production. Crossroads shopping center has been very enthusiastic, and has helped with promotion and technical matters. So it is a truly collaborative effort — and we still have lots to do pulling it together. Thanks to all who are helping with this effort.



Have You Ever Lost Your Car?

A Conciliation Success Story

Lan, a low-income resident of Bellevue with limited English, called us a few weeks ago with a tale of woe. Shortly after she left for a month and a half to visit family in Vietnam, someone stole a wheel off her parked automobile. The then 3-wheeled, inoperable car, was called in to a tow company, who carted it off and proceeded to send her notices of a mounting bill along with a notification that her car would be sold at auction if she did not claim it. So, when Lan returned home a month later, she discovered her predicament — not to mention she had no transportation to get to work!

Eventually she learned the details of the wheel theft and the towing. She also learned she only had a few precious days to retrieve her car, at the cost of over \$2,000 and growing with each passing day, or the car would be legally declared abandoned, and would be auctioned off to the highest bidder. Did we mention the car was only worth about \$500 and Lan would be responsible for the difference between the amount the car sold for at the auction and the towing/storage charges accrued?

Thanks to Linda Sakamoto, a volunteer at Mini City Hall, Lan was directed to the mediation program. Our conciliator David Gorney took the case, and went right to work contacting the various players in this drama. Eventually he reached Dan Wells, the owner of MAC Towing, who agreed to drop the price to \$500, stop the daily charges from continuing to accrue as well as remove the car from the auction list. Given the circumstances, Lan was ecstatic and immensely grateful.

Realizing that Lan would not be able to drive the car off the lot with only three wheels on the car, David then called Dan back to discuss what options he could recommend to Lan. During the course of their conversation Dan walked out to the car on the lot and saw she had a spare in her trunk. He graciously offered to put the spare on the car for her so she could drive it off the lot and operate it until she could replace her stolen wheel.

A week later we received a note from Lan offering sincere thanks to David and the Bellevue

Neighborhood Mediation Program, explaining that “without his help I could not afford to get my car back.”

A big thank you goes out to everyone involved for coming together and creating a wonderful outcome from what began as an unfortunate nightmare!

Upcoming Training Event:

The Power of Dialogue

Constructive Conversations on Divisive Issues

Sponsored by the

Public Conversations Project

Learn to facilitate constructive conversations about divisive issues between groups and individuals by shifting communications and relationships.

Mediators, facilitators, educators, clinicians, clergy, and consultants have benefitted from using PCP's approach in their work.

Location: Seattle, WA

Dates: Oct 16, 17, 18, 2009

Time: 9 am -- 5:30 pm

With Bob Stains and Maggie Herzig

For more information, or to register:

<http://www.publicconversations.org/workshops/pod>

Email: abaron@publicconversations.org

Phone: 888-727-8326 x 13





Parent—Teen Update

By
Cathy Goldman

The new school year has arrived and I am busy checking in with school counselors and other service providers who use our mediation services. We have been asked to collaborate with the Bellevue School District by having a role in their Truancy Workshops. We will facilitate small group discussions to help students and parents talk about truant behavior and brainstorm options for better school attendance. I will share more information about this project as it gets underway.



I am very excited about the in-service trainings planned for this Fall. On October 14th, Laurie Slater (one of our long standing volunteers) will be our guest presenter on "Family Dynamics and Family Systems." We will get a better look at how families function and how we can be of help to them. Then on November 17th, John Shafer and Don Desonier will talk about "The Changing Role of Law and the Practice of Mediation." John and Don have been practicing law for many years and will share the changing trends and the new opportunities for mediation.

I hope you can attend both of these interesting sessions.

BNMP Training Opportunities For Mediators and Conciliators

Parent-Teen In-Service Trainings:

Facilitation Workshop Mini-Training

with Cathy Goldman and Andrew Kidde

Wed. Oct. 7th, from 2-3:30 PM in room 1E-112

Family Systems

with Laurie Slater

Wed. Oct. 14th, from 6-8 PM in room 1E-112

Neighborhood In-Service Training:

Code Compliance

with Gerry Miyazaki, Code Compliance Office

Tues. Oct. 20th, from 6:30-8 PM in Room 1E-120

Joint Parent-Teen and Neighborhood In-Service Training:

The Changing Role of Law and the Practice of Mediation

with John Shafer and Don Desonier

Tues. Nov. 17th, from 6-8 PM in room 1E-112

Training:

Conciliation Training Fall 2009

Thurs. Nov. 5th and Thurs. Nov. 12th

from 9 AM—5 PM in Room 1E-121

Con/Med Consultation Group:

Join us to discuss your current conciliations/mediations or questions. Great networking and learning opportunity. Open to all volunteers. Tuesday, October 13th, 11:30 AM—1 PM Room 1E-119.

VOLUNTEER NEWS

New Conciliators:

Priya Raghav

Erin Kenway

Program Staff:

Program Co-Manager:	Cheryl Cohen	-	452-5222
Program Co-Manager:	Andrew Kidde	-	452-5288
Program Assistant	Gwen Jones	-	452-2897
Parent-Teen Coordinator:	Cathy Goldman	-	452-4091

City of Bellevue website: <http://www.bellevuewa.gov>
(Look for the Mediation Program under "Neighborhood Information")

Volunteer Profile:

Celia Sekijima



Celia was born and raised in Seattle. She is married to John, and they have four kids ranging in age from 16-25. Celia was a neighborhood block watch captain for years and now volunteers in various ways for her community and church. She was encouraged to join BNMP by her neighbor and long-time BNMP mediator, Ron Matthew. Celia has been on our Friday morning conciliator shift—and she is jumping into the role with both feet. We are happy to have her talent and energy at BNMP.



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